

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



News



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

August 2014

GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



*“Beep Beep,” On the Road
for our Veterans!*

...is our theme, and Roadrunner is our symbol. The Roadrunner was chosen because it is the fastest running bird. Our Special Project is “Beep Prepared.” Our Goals for the 2014-2015 year:

1. “Beep Prepared” by increasing the knowledge of members in every capacity of

our organization so we become stronger. We need to increase our knowledge so that we can better serve our Veterans, their families and our communities.

2. Give our Units wholehearted support, to include providing our Units with materials that they need for success and assisting them, to improve their Unit strength in every endeavor they participate in for the good of our American Legion Auxiliary.

3. To increase membership and keep current members involved and happy while engaging in “Service not Self.”

4. To promote our entire American Legion Family by making sure we are all “United” as a family and to make sure we do our part to promote the American Legion family logo/brand.

We are starting a new program this year, and it is about all of us working together and becoming stronger through increased knowledge of how to work our programs and promoting membership.

We will be visiting your Units and District to share the new programs with you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Northern Area Conference
Nov. 1, Aberdeen
Southern Area Conference
Nov. 8, Laurel
Central Area Conference
Dec. 6, Lake Tiak O’Khata

Let us all join the Roadrunner and get on the “Fast Tract” to “Beep Prepared”. We all joined the American Legion Auxiliary to help our Veterans, Let’s put a smile on our faces, joy in our hearts and get started.

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett
Department President

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Well our
new year is
starting,
**ARE WE
READY???**

Our Plans of Actions will be going to all units in September. These plans are the backbone of our Auxiliary, just pick the ones you can do and please make a report on them.

We will include in the Plans a list of department chairmen’s contact information if any help is needed.

When you send your report to your Chairmen, always follow up and make sure it has been received. We have tried to make your reporting as easy as possible, as our reporting is very important.

Please let’s work together and make this a great year, a

happy year, fun year, and productive year.

I am here for you; feel free to call or email me.

**WE ARE GOING TO
HAVE A GREAT YEAR.**

For God and Country,

Anita McAllister
*1st V. P./Programs
Coordinator*



2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Congratulations to all of the newly elected and installed officers. I hope each of you have a blessed and successful year.

Also bravo to the State Convention award recipients and those who could have received awards but failed to get the copies of that hard work turned in... next time for sure!

Thank you for your vote of support and confidence. I will do my best to

serve our veterans and represent the American Legion Auxiliary. However, I know God is not done with me yet.

I am asking each VA representative to call me @601-638-3086. I would like to know who you are and where you are located. Please know that if I can help you in anyway, just let your fingers do the walking and call me or email at evil39183@yahoo.com. I'm waiting for the phone to ring.

Please send me any information you have on where, when and time of any activity planned with the VA hospital, nursing

home, other facilities, fall carnivals, Christmas shopping and Christmas cheer, etc... Fill my calendar with your busy schedule. I look forward to working with you and reaching out to our veterans.

“On the Road Again, Beep! Beep!”

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America,

Eva Ford, 2nd Vice

FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



Hi Ladies,

I wish to thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your Department Historian for the year 2014-2015. I will strive to give a full account of the Auxiliary's actions in the coming year.

As I contemplate the upcoming task I think what history is, and what makes it important in our lives?

History is our past, present, and future thoughts and actions. Everything we do reflects on ourselves and others. Therefore we must look to the past to correct our mistakes, for the present to be a better example as well as our future.

History can repeat it's self only if we allow it to happen. Therefore, we must strive to improve our efforts, in membership, in our duties to our unit, district, and department.

The unit is the workhorse that keeps us working, so please think about your unit's goals, ideas, and duties, to our organization, and send me a narrative of your unit's activities.

July, we celebrated our Independence; what does that mean to you? Our freedom from unjust laws and government, our religious freedom? Have we learned from all the wars and battles fought by American military personnel, have we tried to honor our veterans for the services performed by them, or is it just another day off from work? Remember those that have given so much for us.

Let us work to our full potential on recruiting members, work with and for our veterans, in our community and nursing homes, support our community and youth, and let us make a difference in our legion family? Everyone's story is important and needs to be heard. We make history in everything we do, so let's make a memorable 2014 -2015.

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Dept. Historian

MANY THANKS, DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI!

I want to again thank the Department of Mississippi for your gracious hospitality for my official visit at your 2014 State Convention. What a wonderful weekend! The meeting itself was well run as expected, and I commend Madam President Rose and her officers and chairmen for their excellent reports and activities.

And talk about Christmas—all the wonderful gifts were overwhelming—lots of beautiful pottery, a gorgeous wreath, flip flop items, paintings and more! Wow, so many treasures to cherish for years to come! Thank you all from my heart.

Keep up the great work, Mississippi, as you move forward into a new administrative year. Best wishes to you all.

Angela Kilcrease, 2013-2014 Southern Division National Vice President



NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

AMERICANISM



Convention is over, and everyone has gotten more ideas for another year in the programs. At "Boot Camp," it was an enlightening experience and all who attended learned and really enjoyed the weekend. Each person came away with information to better our Auxiliary and the programs.

District IV's theme is the "Road Dawgs" and all eight (8) units will be nipping at any district's backside that may be ahead of us in membership. Look out!! The "Road Dawgs" goes along with President Mary's theme of "The Roadrunner," and District IV is in the Central Area Division, where MSU is located.

Dates to remember: Sept. 1, Labor Day; Sept. 2, VJ Day (1945); Sept. 3, Allies land in Italy (1943); Sept. 11, Patriot Day; Sept. 17, Citizenship Day; Sept. 18, US Air Force established; Sept. 19, POW/MIA Recognition Day; Sept. 23, First Day of Autumn, and Sept. 28, Gold Star Family Remembrance Sunday.

Trivia Questions: When was the contest for the writing of an American Creed to exemplify "the best summary of the political faith in America?" (2) Who was the winner? Do you know?

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND



Ladies, it is an honor for me to serve on the AEF Chairmanship. I, along with Mrs. Carolyn Tardy, Mrs. Mary Riddle and Mrs. Kathy Williams, make up the 2014-2015 Department Committee. We look forward to working with the unit AEF chairmen to make this a successful program and year.

Let me take a moment and remind you what this fund is about. "The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides temporary emergency financial assistance to members in need and promotes awareness and knowledge of the program." I'm making a challenge to all of you ladies. Let's raise \$8,000 for this fund. You can do it....I've seen so many times you ladies pull together and make a mountain out of a mole hill.

This will be a drop in the bucket for us to do this year. Taking last year's membership of just over 4,000 members, that's less than \$2 dollars per member. Ladies, one great idea to raise funds for this is to put out a collection can during your meeting and ask everyone to put in their change, ask the Legion, Sons, and Riders members also....every penny counts!

Unit Mid-year reports are due to me by 1 December 2014, so unit chairman please mail or email those to me so I can report to Madame President Mary Barrett and the rest of the department on what a great job you are doing. You have to BEEP your own horn.

I look forward to working with this great group of ladies and all of you this year. Please email me at angela.m.baughman.mil@mail.mil or chiefangie2013@gmail.com OR mail your reports to: 956 CR 17, Bay Springs, MS 39442.

For GOD and Country,

Angie Baughman, Chairman

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

POPPY



The Poppy order form is enclosed in this newsletter. Please complete the order form and forward it along with a check to the Department for the number of Poppies you want to receive.

The tradition of the Poppy as the memorial flower of the American war dead began in the years following the First World War. From the battle field of World War 1, weary soldiers brought home memory of a barren landscape transformed by wild poppies that were as red as the blood that had soaked the soil. That's the reason the Poppies that are distributed by the American Legion Auxiliary are always red.

Poppies are worn today to honor our service men and women and also as a tribute to disabled service men. The poppies can be distributed on Veteran's Day, Poppy Day or any other day you choose. The Poppies cannot be sold but donations can be accepted. Donations received for poppies are to be split between the auxiliary unit and the department. The unit keeps 75% and 25% is to be sent to the Department to support its veteran projects. The 75% kept by the unit must be spent on veterans.

Other means to distribute Poppies:

Distribute at your Veterans Day dinner or activities

You can ask merchants downtown, grocery stores and Wal-Mart to allow you to set up a table for distribution

Distribute poppies in Veterans homes, nursing homes and hospitals

Memorial Day events

For God and Country,

Shirley Lamb-Turner, Chairman

LEADERSHIP



Our extended Department Leadership Boot Camp, Aug. 1-3, was a great success, from what we are hearing from those who attended. It was a great first step in training our "trainers" and Department Leaders as we begin a new administrative year. President Mary's goal this year is to educate as many of our members as we can on the "Auxiliary Way." We cannot expect our units to be successful without giving them the proper tools and resources to accomplish our mission as an organization.

I want to thank all the participants of Boot Camp for your time and efforts. I also want to thank fellow presenters Kathy Dungan and Lou Wilkerson for your willingness to share your knowledge. It was also rewarding to see other chairmen and officers chip in and help each other during the weekend as we fine-tuned our Plans of Action and other activities. Remember, no matter how many workshops we attend, we always learn something new each time...and as it should be.

I had the pleasure to work with the District Presidents and Vice Presidents at Boot Camp—what a great group of dedicated members! They sort of overwhelmed me though as we set dates for District Workshops for this year. They all wanted them NOW! So here is the schedule of District Workshops coming up (dates and locations):

District 1: Sept. 13, Tishomingo Unit 144

District 2: Sept. 20, Calhoun City Unit 50

District 7: Sept. 27, Tylertown Unit 56

District 9: Oct. 4, to be announced

District 6: Oct. 11, Vicksburg Unit 213

Districts 4 and 5: Oct. 18, to be announced

District 3: Oct. 25, Cleveland Unit 165

District 8: Nov. 15, Laurel Unit 210

See what I mean—Lord, Help Me and the Leadership Team! See you all at the District Workshops! Beep Beep Prepared!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

M.E.M.B.E.R.S.H.I.P.

Now, I'm not quite sure what I ever did to President Mary, but she is intent on keeping me busy this year and out of trouble. Yep, I'm back in the Membership saddle with you all again this year. **Enclosed in this newsletter is the new unit membership goals for 2014-2015.**

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO KILL THE MESSENGER!

We proudly ended the 2013-2014 administrative year at a whopping 101% ! Past President Rose and the 2014 National Convention Delegation Chairman has already been informed that Mississippi will be recognized for its membership success on stage at National Convention. Be Proud, Ladies...you all did an outstanding job this year. Bravo!

That being said, we have a new goal set for us by National Headquarters and the National Membership Team...4206. That's 99 more members that what we finished with on July 26 (4th Milestone date). Needless to say, everyone's unit goal had to be increased to accommodate our goal set by National.

The American Legion Auxiliary is marching to a Million Members by our Centennial year of 2019. Each year, National will increase our goal to help our organization to reach one million members. Beep Prepared...and forewarned.

How are we going to do this? Simple, we **ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON REJOINS AND ESTABLISHING NEW, THRIVING UNITS!** Nancy was able to procure a list (a rather big one) of members who have not renewed since 2011. OMG, there is a treasure trove of members right there that we have let slip away. I will distributing these lists at each District Workshop with instructions on what to do with it. I'm challenging each District Officer team to identify and assist with creating one new unit in each district.

Speaking of Districts, also **enclosed in this newsletter is a well done communication** from District 3 President Shirley Turner and Vice President Mary Jo Abraham. This is the kind of thing our District Officers need to do on a regular basis to reach our grassroots members. Job well done, ladies!

We have a lot to do this year in membership—remember, membership is our lifeblood...it's that important.

I look forward to working with you all again this year—we can do this TOGETHER!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

Membership Milestone Dates:

60% Renew/Rejoin Achievement: Reach 60% of Renew/Rejoin target by Veterans Day (Nov. 11, 2014)

85% Renew/Rejoin Achievement: Reach 85% of Renew/Rejoin target by Valentine's Day (Feb. 14, 2015)

95% Renew/Rejoin Achievement: Reach 95% of Renew/Rejoin target by 30 days prior to national convention

Good Will Rejoin Award: Rejoin 50% or more of the former members on the list provided by National Headquarters by May 1, 2015

Department Monthly Milestone Achievement Award: Achieve 100% of your monthly milestone in the month of your department convention

National Achievement Award: Achieve 100% of Department Numeric Goal by 30 days prior to national convention



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

War Memorial Building
P. O. Box 1382
Jackson, MS 39212

Phone: 601.353.3681
E-mail: ALAMSHQ@att.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MISSALA.COM

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION

FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Whew! What a Convention! Our newest member of the Past Department Presidents, Rose Blanchard, did a great job, and we are quite proud of her. The installation of new Department Officers and District Presidents was awesome. Congratulations to you all.

We are hard at work here at headquarters preparing for the annual audit, National Convention, and inputting the new unit officers and chairmen in the IMIS system for National. We will have to change the "remit to" names and addresses of who will be receiving your unit membership. That is why we have a space for your membership chairman on the Unit Certification of Officers. If we need to send the renewals to a person other than the membership chairman, we will need to know within the next week. Otherwise, National will direct the renewal payments to the person you listed on your form.

You will also notice that the Poppy order form is in this newsletter. From now on, the poppy orders will need to be in this office by December 1 to get the order by February or March. Please do not forget! Also, our finance committee says your payment has to be in with your order. I can no longer order and receive your payment later.

Your Assessment statement will be in the September newsletter. Your assessments are based on your membership as of July 31, 2014, and are mandatory. There are still a few units who do not get your assessments in. We understand that those units have a very few members and do not have meetings, but if you are chartered, you owe assessments. And don't shoot the messenger!

We are looking forward to a great year in the Auxiliary. Remember our "service, not self" spirit. We are family and it takes all of us to get the job done. If we can assist you in any way, we look forward to your calls.

For God and Country,

Nancy Sanders, Secretary

P.S. For those who plan to attend Central Area Fall Conference at Lake Tiak-O-Khata, Dec. 5-6, they will be holding a block of rooms for your reservation to be made until October 15. After that time, the block will be released.

**BEST WISHES TO THE MISSISSIPPI DELEGATION TO THE
2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHARLOTTE, NC, Aug. 23-28, 2014**

Rose Blanchard, Delegation Chairman

The Department of Mississippi is proud of all of our delegation for their dedication and service to this great organization. Safe travels all!